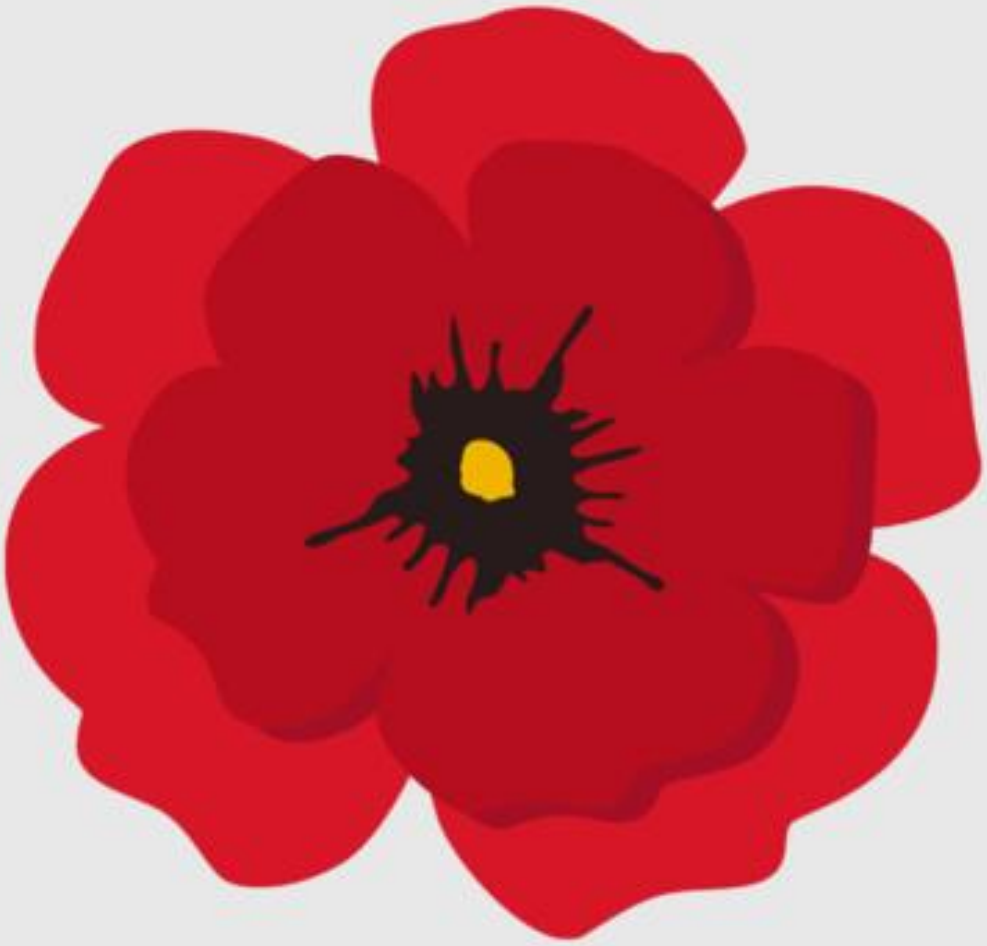
RSA Hamilton



# Armistice Day

Lest we forget.

You are invited to the Armistice Day service to be held at the Hamilton Cenotaph at 1100hrs Wednesday 11 November 2026

# RSA Hamilton November 2026

## FROM THE EDITOR

Welcome to our November newsletter, I trust this year has been a good year for you all, and now with the warmer weather heading our way and of course Christmas, I hope it is going to get even better. We have had a very busy year with ANZAC and Vietnam Veterans commemorations, our AGM, and coming up will be Armistice Day. You are most welcome to attend. All the details are in the newsletter.

There has been a lot of negative press around some of the RSA's in the last few months and unfortunately, it is putting a bit of a stain on the RSA's reputation. I know Bruce has more to say in his president's report, but what is important for you to know is that the Hamilton RSA is in a good financial position, is in good heart, is being run by a very efficient and committed committee and our total focus is to support our veterans and their families. Yours truly and Bruce are off to the RSA's national conference in late November. Should be an interesting time.

On Friday 20 November we are having another open night, and we have invited Paul Hodge MNZM as a guest speaker. Paul is ex-Army Warrant Officer Catering Corps. Around 2006 he had a vision to set up a company called CaterPlus. Starting as a chef, he built a 21-year kitchen career running large hospitality and food service training ventures, including at the helm of the Joint Services Catering School in the NZ Army. In 2012 Paul turned his vision into a legacy, with the creation of The CaterPlus Foundation, later to become The Hodge Foundation which is a family-led NZ Charity created to invest in people, the industry and the community now and in the future. The foundation has a simple belief- 'SMALL ACTS - BIG IMPACT. Come along and hear Paul at the open night and hear more about how his foundation is making a huge difference in people's lives.

Oh, and did I tell you, we have a couple of Hams to raffle off. Be in quick!

I know this is very early, but from me to you, have an awesome and blessed Christmas and we will see you in the new year.

## A huge thank you to our sponsors

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## A message from your President

Kia Ora to you all.

Welcome to another edition of our newsletter. I am hoping that you enjoy reading the information that is contained within it.

**AGM.** We held our Annual General Meeting on 26th September, and I thank those who took the time to attend. As is required, we voted in our executive committee and I am happy to report that all present members elected to stand again along with the addition of one more, namely Mr. Neal Batten who was co-opted at our first committee meeting in October. I thank our committee for committing their time and energy in supporting me and providing their enthusiasm to maintain the existence of our Association in Hamilton. Another item on the agenda was the need to increase our subscriptions due to the increase in capitation to RNZRSA. After discussion it was moved to increase our annual subscription to $45.00. This covers all categories of membership and is effective from July 2027. We were asked at AGM to describe how the capitation that we paid was spent by RNZRSA. To clarify to those who may have the same question, here is a brief breakdown of the annual RNZRSA 2025/26 budget:

**Indicative Income:**

- Budget: $2.003m p.a. (Capitation $650k, Ministers Grant $275k, Donations $255k, Commissions $130k, Interest $100k, Poppy sales $70k)
- Actual: $1.713m (Capitation from RSA's down $188k)

**Indicative Expenses:**

- Staff costs: $1.0m (for seven full-time Employees which includes four veteran support staff salaries, and some part-time staff)
- Administration: $300k
- Marketing and communications $170k (Poppy Day campaign etc.)
- Support to veterans: $120k (Support Advisor training/Veterans Forums)
- Strategic Initiatives: $120k (Constitution, Bylaws etc.)
- Property and Equipment: $80k
- Governance Support: $90k

Overall tracking for an annual loss despite $170k savings found over the past year.

Some of you may be aware from recent media and other outlets, that there is an issue with some RSA member associations refusing to pay their capitation. Capitation is set by RNZRSA at National Council

AGM, and it is based on per head membership. It is a requirement to pay this and to ease the burden of this payment, there is an option to pay it quarterly over the following 12-month period, which is what Hamilton RSA does. You will see above that some $188,000 of capitation due is still outstanding by some RSA's.

At our AGM, it was a pleasure to announce that Mr. Vaughan Scrivener has been nominated for the award of Life Membership of Hamilton RSA. This was passed at AGM. Well done, Vaughan, congratulations and thank you for your dedication and ongoing commitment to the Hamilton RSA.

**Finances.** As was shown in our annual financial statement, our income and expenses remain reasonably stable. A significant amount of our operational expenses has been offset by the proceeds from our HWMC Raffle Account. I sincerely thank those of you who assist Chris Campbell with the running of the club meat raffles, which are critical to easing much of the routine operational costs that we incur. With the receipt of our members' subscriptions and donations along with controlled expenditure, we manage to keep ahead of our running costs and financial commitments.

**General.** We have been reasonably active with the management of our Association. Our rewrite of the Hamilton RSA Rules was approved at AGM and a copy of these is available by approaching Helen in the office. The Rules have been heavily edited to exclude duplication with the Hamilton RSA Constitution, a copy of which is also available to any member.

Our committee and volunteers have been out and about to present ourselves to the community through public shows and expo's. We were joined by a few members of the Cambridge RSA at the recent Motorhome and Caravan Show at Mystery Creek and then this month at the Aspire Showcase at Hamilton Gardens. Both events provide the opportunity for us to connect with veterans, their families and the general public.

Once again, I need to extend a vote of thanks to our Local Support Advisors who do a fantastic job of responding to requests for assistance, meeting with Veterans and families to help them with any assistance that is required. This team of Jan Luttrell, Lance Langley and Tony Wright are ably led by Ian Foster. Ian provides a monthly update to executive committee on LSA statistics which shows an overview of cases handled along with the number of resolutions (no personal detail is recorded here). They do terrific work for our Veterans within Hamilton and areas that extend beyond the city boundary. Well done team, your work is appreciated.

**Open Night.** This is coming up in November. We are trying some different formats for our Open Nights which you will read about in the flyer attached to this newsletter.

If you are able, please come on down for a social couple of hours and catch up on Friday 20th November.

Take care out there and regards to you all.

*Bruce Gillespie*

RSA Hamilton

# Open Night

An open invitation is extended to all service Veterans, current serving Defence Force Personnel, friends and relatives in our community, NZ Police and all RSA members

**When:** **Friday 20 November 2026-1730**-onwards

**Where:** Hamilton Workingmen's Club Conservatory

45 Commerce St Frankton

**Dress code:** smart casual

**Cash bar and light snacks available**

**Special guest speaker**

## Paul Hodge

**Founder of CaterPlus and The Hodge Foundation**

**Come along and enjoy a night of company and an inspiring guest speaker**
**Please RSVP to Helen by Wednesday 18 Nov Ph. 07 839 4928 or email rsahamilton@xtra.co.nz**



## Two Hams to be raffled

# Be in to win



## If you haven't paid your subs for 2026/27, they are due now

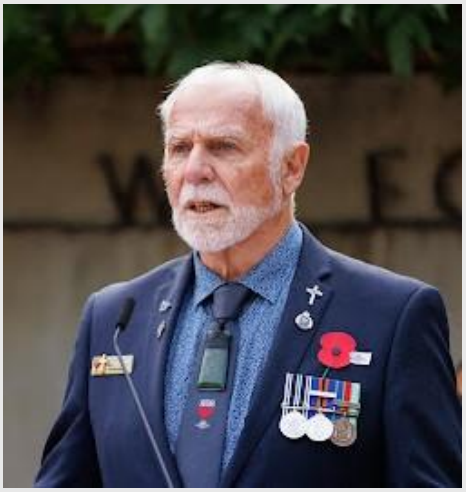
*You may direct credit payment to our Westpac bank account:*

*The Hamilton Returned and Services Association (Inc)* ***03 0306 0201470 00***

**Meet your new committee for 2026/2027**



**President Bruce Gillespie**



**Vice President & Padre Lance Langley**



**Jan Luttrell Honorary Treasurer**

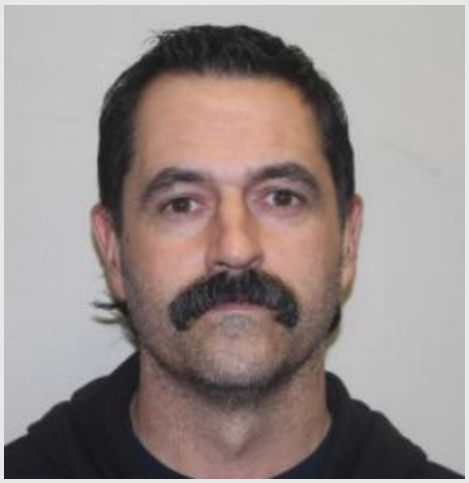


**Dianne Raffan Hamilton Cadets**

**Assets/Equipment & Store**



**Tony Wright Assets/Equipment and store**



**Neville Johnson**



**Neal Batten**



**Chris Campbell Raffle Co-ordinator**



# Last Post

**Peter Wiren** 20363 Army Japan/Korea Force/K Force

**John A Dicks** Army F945328 Singapore RNZIR

**Kenneth G Ray** Navy (British) FZ115186 FAA

**Fredrick J Fellows** Army CMT T/F

**Owen Simmonds** Army U544704 Vietnam 1NZSAS

**Terence D Caughley** Army 40952 Malaya RNZ Sigs

**Maurice R Lond** Member

**Patrick J McCarthy** Army 46455 4th Med CMT

**Robert G Kiddie** Army F484385 CMT

**Alwyn R Reeve** Army 464397 CMT

**Sylvie Burr** Honorary Member

**Gerald R Foley** Army 528195 1st Field Sqdn

**Richard J Sturgeon** Army 474027 Malaya/Borneo 1RNZIR

**Brian Sherborne** Army 898117 Malaya SE Asia, Life member Hamilton RSA

**Tony B Marchioni** Airforce 621813 RNZAF, Life Member Hamilton RSA




In July, three cadets and one officer joined other New Zealand cadets on a trip to the United Kingdom, taking part in exercises and touring the country. I heard they had a wonderful but busy time—the photos I saw of them asleep on the bus certainly suggested a full itinerary! That same month, four cadets and one officer joined other New Zealand cadets in Australia to compete for the Chief of Army's trophy. Their second-place finish was impressive for a team that had never worked together. The unit placed second in this year's New Zealand Skill at Arms competition. I understand they missed first place by just one point. About 11 new cadets joined the unit in Term 3. During the holidays, the recruits finished their training and graduated as cadets, receiving their certificates from Brigadier Broadley. Five cadets and one officer helped at the Special Olympics, directing competitors to their lanes and timing every race. It was an enjoyable experience.




The unit took part in Tough Cadet at Lake Hakanoa, completing an observation lane, a kit carry and pulling (rowing, for the landlubbers). Officers and parents joined the tug of war, though one team couldn't quite secure a win! They also set the fastest pulling time, despite some of us struggling to synchronise our strokes and stay in the boat. Army and Navy members competed together in the teams. Seven recruits joined us in Term 3 and will complete their training in Auckland. Two parents serving as the committee's chairperson and treasurer will step down at year's end, after a combined eight years of service to the unit. Term 4 has been so busy that we've had to decline some activities. I think everyone is looking forward to a long break at year's end. From all our cadets and officers, we wish you a very merry Christmas and a happy New Year.




# Congratulations Luke



***Introduction to Qualifying Service.***

*Qualifying Operational Service is a term used to describe service that has been carried out in areas that have been assessed as having environmental or operational risks to Defence Force personnel that is significantly greater than those of peacetime activities*

*There are two types of Qualifying Service:*

*· Qualifying Routine Service* *· Qualifying Operational Service.*

*You don't need both types of Qualifying Service to get support. Either type will give you eligibility.*

*The support you can get depends on your unique service, including:*

*· where you served or when you served.*

*You will also need to meet the individual requirements for each service or entitlement.*

***Qualifying Operational Service***

*You will have Qualifying Operational Service if you have deployed to an area that has been declared as Qualifying Operational Service.*

***How Qualifying Operational Service is determined***

*An operation is determined "eligible" based on its assessed threat level.*

*1. After the decision to deploy has been made, the Chief of Defence Force must give a report to the Minister for Veterans as soon as possible. This report assesses the operational and environmental threats to deployed personnel. Deployments that have already ended can also be reviewed.*

*2. The Minister for Veterans decides if there is a significant risk of harm to deployed personnel.*

*3. The Minister for Veterans declares the operation as Qualifying Operational Service if it meets the threat threshold. This declaration is published on the Veterans' Affairs website.*

*If you don't have Qualifying Operational Service — and didn't serve before 1 April 1974 — you are likely not eligible for support from Veterans Affairs.*

*There is a chance that you have deployed on an operation that has yet to be declared as Qualifying Operational Service. Check the Veterans Affairs web site.*

*If you served before 1 April 1974 — regardless of where — you will have Qualifying Routine Service.*

***Qualifying Routine Service***

*You will have Qualifying Routine Service if you served in the NZ Armed Forces before 1 April 1974 — either in New Zealand or overseas.*

*Qualifying Routine Service recognizes that before 1 April 1974, service members were not covered for work-related injuries or illnesses. Because of this, we provide support to all those that served in the NZ Armed Forces during this time.*

*Qualifying Routine Service stopped on 1 April 1974 with the introduction of ACC. Since that date, ACC provides support for all New Zealanders who suffer work-related injuries or illnesses. This coverage extends to members of the NZ Defence Force or NZ Armed Forces.*